

**TOWN OF SHEFFIELD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
DECEMBER 5, 2005
TOWN HALL**

Board Members Present: Janet G. Stanton, Chairman
David D. Macy, Selectman
Julie M. Hannum, Selectman

Other Staff Present: Robert Weitz, Town Administrator
Beverly A. Gilbert, Recording Secretary

Chairman Stanton called meeting to order at 7PM

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Selectman Hannum moved to approve the Regular and Executive Session meeting minutes for November 28, 2005, seconded by Selectman Macy. Motion carried unanimously.

SHEFFIELD LAND GROUP RE: CONSERVATION RESTRICTON (BOW WOW ROAD)

Selectman Macy moved to approve Sheffield Land Group's Conservation Restriction for 53 acres on Bow Wow Road, seconded by Selectman Hannum. Motion carried unanimously.

APPOINTMENTS

- Building Inspectors

Town Administrator Weitz reported that while not all references returned his calls, the ones he did speak to provided excellent references for Mr. Carmody. Town Administrator Weitz recommended appointing Mr. Carmody pending approval of the State Inspector.

Selectman Macy moved to appoint Tom Carmody as Building Inspector, pending State Inspector approval, seconded by Selectman Hannum. Motion carried unanimously.

Selectman Macy moved to appoint Brent Getchell as Assistant Building Inspector, seconded by Selectman Hannum. Motion carried unanimously.

- Town Administrator

Selectman Macy moved to re-appoint Town Administrator Weitz, as per previously approved employment agreement, seconded by Selectman Stanton. Motion carried with Selectman Hannum abstaining on the basis that she had not participated in negotiations since such occurred prior to her being a Selectman.

MEETING SCHEDULE

Chairman Stanton stated that very few towns have Selectmen meetings on a weekly basis, and asked the Board to consider changing the meeting schedule to another night of the week (as many state mandated holidays fall on Mondays) and holding meetings the first and third weeks each month.

SELECTMEN'S ITEMS

At Selectman Hannum's initiation, discussion ensued regarding the town's upcoming website and links. Selectman Macy indicated that he did not feel it was appropriate for businesses to be directly linked. Town Administrator Weitz cautioned that the town needs to treat businesses in a consistent manner and the town can't pick and choose which businesses it would want to post on the website. Don Ward suggested that the town might want to have a link to the non-profit organization – Sheffield Association that could direct users to Churches, eateries, B&Bs, what's happening in the area.

Selectman Hannum stated that based on a letter from Ben Hillman of Salisbury Road concerning removal of a cherry tree at the edge of his property, she want to discuss the town's tree removal policy with attention to notification to the public. The board will hold further discussion at a working meeting. Don Ward offered that the town could call on the Sheffield Tree Project to replace trees.

Selectman Hannum advised that the Legislature has a bill concerning increasing town's liability, and increasing criminal penalties regarding Open Meeting Law. Rep. Pignatelli does not support such.

Chairman Stanton expressed her appreciation to those involved in the two tree lightings, which gave a wonderful feeling of community.

Selectman Macy requested that the new town vehicles be identified with the Town of Sheffield. Town Administrator Weitz advised that he had already ordered town seals for the trucks.

PUBLIC COMMENT

John Downie expressed disappointment over not receiving a reply to his letter he sent in October regarding two zoning violations. The Board indicated that current building inspector's time had been extremely stressed, and they anticipate that zoning enforcement issues will be addressed when the new building inspector is on board. Chairman Stanton expressed that while she concurs, and is sorry the board did not provide a more timely response, the board needed to take the time necessary to find the right person to serve as the new Zoning Enforcement Officer / Building Inspector. The Board agreed to make contact with Berkshire Fence, which is new to town and might not be aware of violations.

Rene Wood advised that Tom Matusko of Berkshire Regional Planning received the moneys for the 3 grants (aquifer protection, revision of zoning, and master plan), and next step is to form committees of which she requests that each Selectmen join at least one.

Selectman Macy moved to adjourn, seconded by Selectman Hannum. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Stanton adjourned the meeting at 7:54PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Gilbert, Recording Secretary